BEREA

1890 1990

CENTENNIAL

College Square, Berea Kentucky, circa 1890

A Supplement to the Berea Citizen

Top, Berea, when horsepower really was horsepower; middle, the old Champion fire truck; bottom, a gathering at College Square.

By 1890, when Berea was incorporated as a city, Berea College commencements had become key occasions, featuring orations, choruses, recitations, dinner on the grounds and selling of wares (above). Homespun Fairs (poster at right) also had become popular by the turn of the century and featured such crafts as woven items, hickory-split baskets, splint-bottom chairs and handmade ax handles.

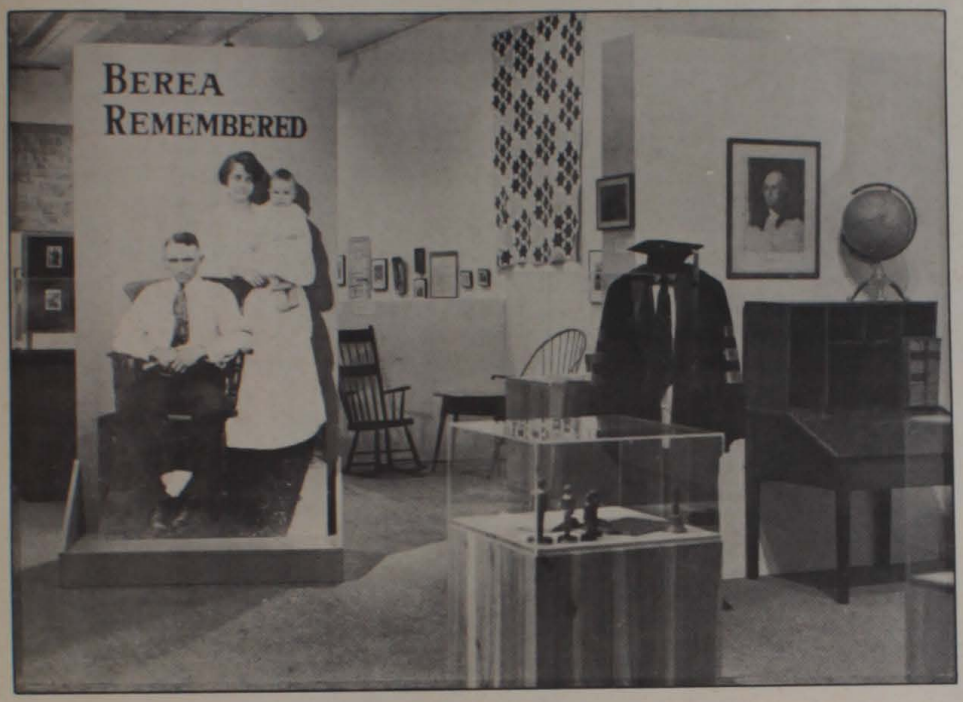
Happy Birthday to an old friend

Berea College is some 35 years older than the City of Berea, but, in many ways, we grew up together. The history of the College and the community is so intertwined that names and events have much in common. And, because of this common heritage, it's a particular pleasure for the College and its employes to offer special congratulations to the City of Berea on the occasion of its 100th birthday.

We look forward to another 100 years of mutual progress and cooperation.

Fireside Weaving (above) grew out of the early Homespun Fairs, as this 1950s photo indicates. By 1909, a hotel that would become renowned for its southern cuisine, was built (at right). This Boone Tavern photo was taken prior to 1920.

Berea College



Upper left, Berea Remembered, a centennial exhibit at Appalachian Museum; middle, Danforth Chapel; bottom left, Ground breaking for Union Church October 23, 1920. (Loan by Gay Walker)

Contents

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Top, Berea, when horsepower really was horsepower; middle, the old Champion fire truck; bottom, a gathering at College Square.

Candidates for state and national office often stopped in Berea when rail roads and whistle-stop campaigns were the best way to meet the most people.

The cabin, eight miles from Berea, that inspired Harriet Beacher Stowe to write "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

A home in Appalachia

MOTOR WHEEL CORPORATION

GLADES ROAD BEREA, KENTUCKY

Motor Wheel Corporation was formed in 1920 with the merger of four established companies having roots in the commercial highway and automotive industries. In the 1930's, Centrifuse drums were introduced for automobiles and soon expanded to heavy trucks.

Goodyear Aerospace Corporation had built and began manufacturing in the Berea facility in 1973. The plant underwent three expansions since that time. The current structure contains 128,215 square feet of floor space and is located on 47.1 acres. In 1986 the Goodyear Aerospace business was sold to Rockwell International and relocated to South Carolina.

In 1987 manufacturing operations for Centrifuse drums were relacated from its original home in Lansing, Michigan to Berea, Kentucky.

During its first five years of operations, the Motor Wheel Berea Plant has become a major contributor to the corporation. The plant has built a record of continuous improvement in nearly every aspect of the business: quality, waste costs, profit and customer service. A major plant accomplishment has been the attainment of Ford's Q-1 Award for quality.

The driving force behind the success of the plant has been its people. Employees participating in the business at every level has made the slogan "Our People Make the Difference" a reality in the Berea Plant. Likewise, future success is only limited by our willingness to contribute beyond traditional boundaries.

CITY OF BEREA, KENTUCKY 1890

MAYOR

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CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Tom Preston

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Mrs. Vilolet Farmer
Mr. George T. Bryant
Mr. Tommy McCay
Mr. Howard Baker
Mr. Auldon Parker
Mr. J. Carroll McGill

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Mr. David Vaughn
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Mr. James Gilbert
Corporation Council

Mr. Ray Brandenburg
Police Chief

Mr. Jerry Simpson
Fire Chief

Range of agencies founded to aid Appalachians

By CHRIS TACKETT

Loyal Jones of Berea College was intricately involved in programs to break down the pockets of isolation and poverty common in Appalachia in the 1960s.

The War on Poverty was an effort by people such as Jones to help others help themselves. The national movement spawned many federal, state, and grass-roots programs, with numerous organizations created which are still in existence today.

Madison County residents have benefitted from most of the regional programs and services. The Kentucky River Foothills Development Council (KRFDC) has traditionally played a pivotal role in Madison County. Currently, the organization offers services in the areas of child development, transportation, youth programs, energy assistance, nutrition, housing, outreach, emergencies, and homeless assistance. The KRFDC is part of a whole network of social services agencies which have developed in the area.

As director of the Council on Southern Mountains between 1967-1970, Jones helped bring new ideas to Appalachians. Himself an Appalachian native, Jones was familiar with the problems of the region and ways to perhaps alleviate them. "The idea was to get poor people involved themselves in running the programs affecting them," he said recently.

Founded in 1913, the council brought together at an annual conference regional workers involved in mountain projects and representatives of private institutions such as schools and churches. The membership organization published magazines and other materials, conducted research, experimented with adult education and recreation programs, and created youth programs.

In the 1930s, the council was responsible for the formation of the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, one of the largest in the country. More recently, in the 1960s, two crucial, ongoing organizations, the Conference of Appalachian Governors and the Appalachian Regional Commission, were developed at the annual meetings of the council.

With the involvement of the federal government in the War on Poverty in the 1960s, funds became available to improve education, job development and industrial growth. Federal legislation also led to the creation of the Office of Economic Opportunity, which has been active from 1964 to today. With the 1970s came the advent of most entitlement programs.

A primary objective of all this activity was to "get poor people involved in their own community action programs," said Jones.

Organizations such as the ARC brought external improvements to the region, in the form of roads and public facilities.

There also were projects to winterize homes, assistance in the payment of utilities, and establishing industries and housing programs. "Anything to improve the standard of living for people," said Jones.

"I think the great accomplishment here was getting people involved who had been silent all of their lives and didn't take part," he added. "Those same people are still involved with programs that are going on today."

Begun as a community development organization in 1962, the KRFDC was essentially a four-county poverty program. The organization impacted Appalachia on the grass-roots level. A grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity enabled the KRFDC to establish an office and network of community workers.

Laundry out to dry

Adriel Woodman, executive director of KRFDC, said, "We've always developed the idea that poor persons and poor families can become self-reliant and self-sufficient rather than rely on welfare and handouts."

By continuing the Foothills Express, a subsidized ride program, the KRFDC promotes the economic development of communities. One of the many functions of the service is to transport able-bodied workers to and from the job site.

Woodman has defined as "brilliant successes" the Head Start programs of the KRFDC in Berea and elsewhere. Research indicates that children in quality pre-school programs identical to Head Start have a better chance of success in life, Woodman said. Thirty-eight percent of Head Start graduates went to college, while only 21 percent of other Appalachian residents attended. The teenage pregnancy rate was higher among persons who had not attended Head Start, he added.

Plowing the fields with horses

Head Start is goal-oriented, Woodman said. The children in this program are taught to achieve, learn, and have success in life. They learn important values and to take control of their lives, he added.

Jones agreed that educational programs such as Head Start and Upward Bound for high school students and other youth projects have eased the burden of Appalachian communities, including Berea.

As an educator, Jones feels strongly about Berea College's Upward Bound program, of which he is a member of the governing committee. "There are dozens of people who would never have gone to college were it not for Upward Bound," he said. The college also promotes a counseling enrichment program "that I think opens up avenues for students so they can see what education can do for them," added Jones. "The program enables them to get excited about their opportunities."

For several years, during the tenures of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, Appalachian volunteers worked in one-room schools, Jones said. They not only taught the students but also helped provide the needy with meals.

The Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) were paid nominal salaries to help in a variety of capacities on the local level, Jones said.

The Frontier Nursing Service and Mount Maternal Health League were pioneer organizations which are now well-established in Berea and other Appalachian communities, Jones said. The nursing service brought health care and education to remote areas. Mount Maternal has been involved in family planning since the 1930s.

Programs such as Aid to Dependent Children, Social Security assistance to the disabled or handicapped or the elderly, and free lunches to poor children have all resulted from the efforts in the 1960s, Jones said.

"Now we do have some support for people who are in dire straits," he said. "There are lots of

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AGENCIES, From page 5

things we have done to get people out of poverty. They have been scaled back, but at least they are there. At least today you don't have people starving, and the income has risen to about two-thirds of the national average."

Appalachia has a long way to go, Woodman said, but conditions would be much worse were if not for the efforts begun in the 1960s.

Jones pointed out that one Jackson County woman with a poor family to feed became involved in the War on Poverty through community action programs. Now, she has successfully raised her children and is attending college with them.

"We've accomplished a great deal in the 60's and 70's in terms of taking care of such problems as nutrition and housing for low income and older people," Jones said. "But that doesn't say that the job has been done."

The low point in Appalachia was in the early 1960s, with the shutdown of mines and migration out of the mountains, Jones said. Aid was forthcoming in the late 1960s, enough to ward off starvation. But there are still many problems in the region which need to be addressed, he added.

"I think it's a scandal in American life that the number of poor children is growing every year," Jones said. "It's the biggest group of people who are poor in the country." Numerous children in Appalachia must overcome the handicap of coming from single parent families with women as the head of the households, he added.

An Appalachian volunteer teaches a grade school in eastern Kentucky.

Substandard housing and illness are two of the effects of poverty on Appalachia. Poor persons are still unemployed and not taking advantage of the very services targeting them, Jones said.

In this, a more conservative era, many Appalachians, including some in Berea, still face hardships which might be solved were it not for government cutbacks, Jones said. "There are a lot of poor or disabled needy people who may have fallen between the cracks and don't have social security or welfare but still need help."

BEREA 1890 1990 CENTENNIAL

Moore remembers fire that destroyed Welch Building

By CHRIS TACKETT

For Lou Dailey Moore, 101 years of age, the flames from a fire which destroyed the Welch Building in the early 20th century still flicker in her mind like her other memories of the past.

The resident of the Berea Health Care Center still recalls the lights in the sky from the burning of the combination merchandise, drug and hardware store. The incident took place across the street from the house of Moore's great aunt.

Moore remembers back to when she was 10-12 years old, a time when Berea had few tall buildings, no factories, and a small college campus. A boardwalk rather than a paved road extended along Chestnut Street in front of the First Christian Church. Travel was by railroad, horse and buggies or wagons drawn by oxen. There was no electricity, and drinking water was provided from wells dug in yards. Moore recalls a fountain built in the square beside Boone Tavern from which horses drank, and a wooden bridge on Chestnut Street.

Moore and her friend at the Berea Health Center, Nannie Shearer, also 101 years of age, were wistful about the Berea of their childhoods, simpler times when they said people were honest and trustworthy.

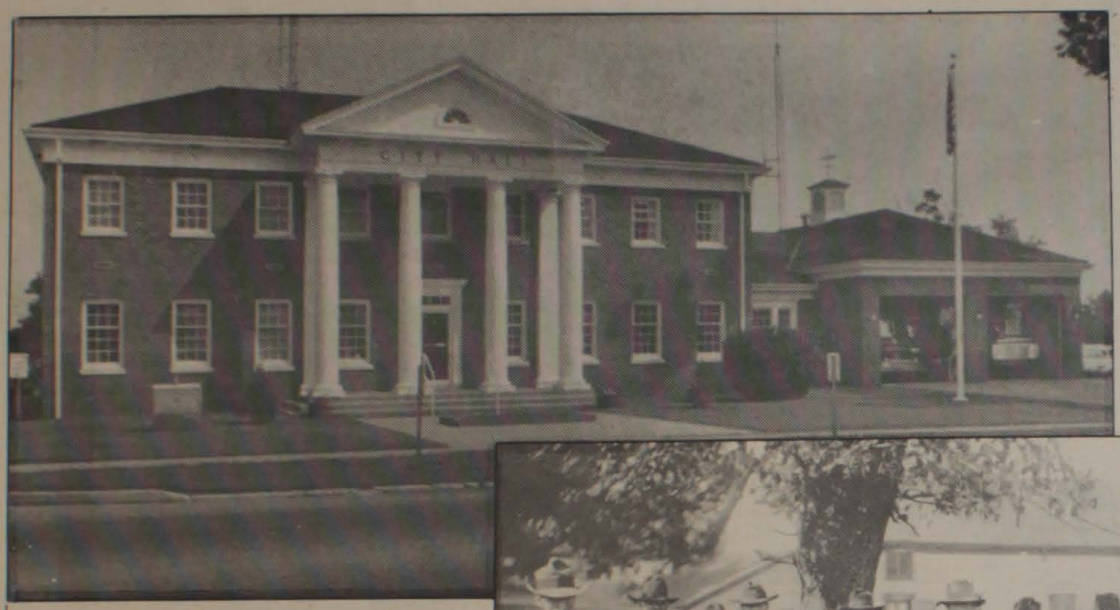
"We used to never have to lock our doors at night," said Moore. "Now we have to lock everything."

What was once farmland is now subdivisions spread in every direction, with new industries dotting the landscape, she said. People today are smarter and more educated, but the traditional values which used to define the character of an individual are now lost, she added.

Shearer worked hard as a youngster, handling a hoe in a tobacco patch when she was old enough. She said that everyone in her immediate family worked in the fields on the farm, including her three brothers and four sisters.

Etched upon Moore's memory is the first automobile she ever saw, in 1912 in Paris, Ky. The vehicle belonged to a friend of her husband, G.H. Dailey, a telegraph operator.

In those days neighbors took an interest in one another, and close-knit communities were the rule rather than the exception. As Moore said: "You were always welcome back in those days, you didn't have to be invited (to a neighbor's residence)."



The Berea City Hall as it is today provides much more confortable meetings for municipal court than the outdoor meetings of earlier years.

Berea selective about industry, growth

By MIKE FRENCH

Cleanliness, beauty and serenity have been the three trademarks of Berea, Kentucky for over 100 years..

One would expect with the changes in times and the growth of a small-town community such as Berea, those three trademarks would have to suffer with expansion. That might have been true of Berea if a somewhat different attitude had not been developed about industrialization.

Increased jobs for the community and the extra tax dollars taken into the city are important considerations when any community expands. But, those are not the most important factors that are considered by the decision makers when an industry is planning to build a factory in Berea.

"We have turned down several industries who would love to be located in Berea", said Mayor Clifford Kerby.

"We do want industry in Berea, and we are excited about our community growth and its outlook for the future," he said. "But before we take in an industry, we consider the city and its environment. Is the industry clean? What do they produce? Is there any pollution?"

Kerby said it is clear that Berea is one of the most beautiful small towns today, but he said it didn't just happen that way.

"We (the community, the officials, the people) all work together to make this community what it is," he explained.

Part of the plan, according to Kerby, is to make Berea so well known for its beauty and cleanliness that only industries with that kind of attitude will be interested in coming to Berea.

The plan is already working.

"One of the factories that we turned down said to me later that they knew we would turn them down because they would have a certain extent of noise and dust," Kerby said. "It was a good industry and had a lot of possitive sides, but it wasn't what Berea needs."

Kerby said Berea has taken in five new industries in the past five years and that each of these industries have similar goals in mind.

"The industries that have come to Berea have a pride in their community," Kerby said. "They care about their plants and their employees. They came to Berea because we have the reputation of being that way also. It's easy to tell that these plants have high civic values because look where they want to be...Berea."

Kerby said Berea offers many things that industry would look for in a community. A good work force, new sewer plant and many other good qualities that are possitives for a new plant.

Kerby, who has been the Mayor of Berea for 13 years, said the industrial park is undergoing a change.

"Even though there will be more construction and additions at the industrial park, we are undergoing a beautification process," he said.

The streets of Berea are swiftly becoming famous throughout the state and surrounding states as some of the most beautiful in any small town. Kerby says the industrial park will keep with that tradition.

"We are planting cherry trees, foliage and shrubs throughout the park. The industries in the park are all very interested in keeping that clean, neat environment. It will take a few years, but we will have the industrial park as picturesque as the rest of Berea in no time at all," he said.

Kerby said Berea and its industry will keep the serenity even as it grows into the future and he wants industries to know that Berea is a long way from being through growing.

"We are talking to two more industries right now. They will probably come here very soon. It is a wounderful place to be and there will be more growing. We invite any new industries to come and see for themselves what a place we have here. And we are still looking for new industries to come to our wonderful town," he said.

Dulcimers are made — and played — in Berea.

Post Office undergone many changes, still emphasizes service

By CHRIS TACKETT

"Neither rain nor sleet nor hail nor gloom of night shall stay these couriers." — Motto of the United States Postal Service

Everyone expects to receive mail on time, with little thought given to the long hours and detailed operations involved in makaing the srvice possible. It is to the credit of the employees of the United States Postal Service that the work they do is almost taken for granted.

Howard Baker, Berea's 30th and latest postmaster, takes the post office's responsibilities very seriously. "I feel we are one of the most critical services that people need and expect in their daily lives," he said recently.

The most important function of the local postal system, he added, is "to provide a means of communication nationally and internationally at a reasonable price and with a high level of efficiency."

The equipment, services, and modes of transportation utilized at the local post office are a far cry from those used on July 8, 1850, when the Menelaus, Ky., Post Office was established in Berea. It's generally believed that the two-story building was named after Menelaus Road, then probably a main thoroughfare, said Baker. The post office was located at the intersection of North Broadway and Chestnut streets where Williams Car Lot is today.

The Berea Post Office, then and now.

The post office was established on a route from Kingston by Menelaus, Silver Creek and Scaffold Cane roads, to Mt. Vernon, 25 miles back and forth weekly. The route was a branch of Route 5120, from Lexington by White Hall, Richmond, Rogersville, Kingston, Big Hill and Mershom's Cross Roads, to London.

In the early 1800s, mail was delivered by horseback and wagons three times a week. This way of travel was to be first replaced by the railroad, then by the highway.

"We feel we're the only agency really which has daily contact with customers, and every citizen has equal access to our services," said Baker.

The first postmaster of Berea was John Dozier. Records indicate he opened the office for business on or just before Aug. 10, 1850. The first record of compensation shows Dozier receiving $13.25 for the period from this date through June 30, 1851. The net receipts for the office during that period were $15.04. Currently, the net receipts of the post office total over $1.8 million annually.

On Sept. 11, 1861, Schuyler Johnson was named postmaster of Berea. He changed the name of the post office to Johnson's Shop, Ky. The building was located on Johnson Shop Road. The name of the office was officially changed to Berea on May 16, 1867, when William N. Embree was named postmaster.

Baker was appointed to his current post by the Postmaster General of the United States. The position was no longer filled by political appointees after the Reorganization Act of 1970. Baker said postmasters are now "executive-management types," and "can be reappointed to higher posts within the postal system."

Rural delivery was established in Berea in 1907, with city delivery in 1929. Customers beyond the city limits were then able to receive mail at their residences without any "further charge for service," said Baker.

"We serve through accepting mail for our customers from all over the world, and we deliver to them six days a week, 302 days a year," he said. Today, local carriers drive 360 miles a day for 20,000 customers.

The current post office building, which cost $65,000, was dedicated on Sept. 11, 1937. The lot was purchased on Sept. 3, 1935, for $5,500. In a letter to post office authorities dated Sept. 6, 1935, Postmaster Edgar Moore and Assistant Postmaster William Clark wrote: "I consider this a very fair price as Standard Oil Company recently purchased a lot adjoining with a 100-foot frontage for $8,000."

A time capsule was buried at the dedication ceremonies in the building's cornerstone, which had been laid by the Berea Kiwanis Club. Baker said the capsule is to be opened probably before the end of 1991. The contents will be displayed, and then returned with new items into the capsule, which is to be resealed.

The postal service included a tax subsidy until it was eliminated when the system was reorganized in the 1970s. Consequently, there are no "hidden costs" at the post office for customers to contend with, said Baker, adding that 29 cents was not much to pay for a postage stamp.

One of Baker's primary responsibilities is to make certain that the post office breaks even, or makes money. He wires transfer revenues out to the postal service's national location each day, and some of the proceeds are sent to local banks.

Baker said his organization tries to keep the money in this community as much as possible, an amount which can be considerable with a total payroll in excess of $700,000 annually. Twenty-four of the local postal employees live in Madison County, and contribute in different ways to the local economy, including local taxes, added Baker.

The local post office continues to improve services and add innovations and technology. During Baker's tenure, the post office has changed from using route and mailbox numbers to house numbers out in the county. Emergency services personnel now have a definitive address to use. The long-range goals of the process are to employ automation to spread the delivery of mail as well as to more efficiently manage operations. By using house numbers, the postal service keeps costs in check "and maintains a steady postage rate," said Baker.

Automation has reduced the amount of sorting and office time. It has also increased the territory covered and reduced the amount of time the carrier spends on the street delivering mail. Such improvements enable postal employees to handle on the average 22,000 pieces of incoming mail per day. The cost of manually handling 1,000 pieces of mail was $35, a figure which has been

POST OFFICE, continued

reduced to $15 due to limited automation. By 1992, the local postal service intends to be using an optical character reader and a bar code sorter to reduce the cost to $2.60 per thousand.

Other recent programs added at the Berea post office include a computerized window unit out front. Additional features are to be included on the computer in 1991 which will speed transactions and cut the waiting time and length of customer lines.

In addition, the vending equipment in the lobby provides 24-hour a day access to the customer.

"It's a rapidly changing organization," said Baker. "Right now is an exciting time."

The postmaster commended his carriers and other employees for their dedication to the job, which often entails working on Sundays and holidays. Christmas Day is the only time during the year that someone is not working at the post office, said Baker. Two carriers walk in excess of 10 miles per day, carrying 30 pounds of mail. Each employee must meet expected daily productivity achievements, added Baker.

"Most people don't realize that the postal service is a very demanding employer," he said. "The jobs are demanding mentally and physically."

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Chief of Police Bill Hayes

PRESIDENTS, From page 12

lished the Brushy Fork Institute, a leadership program; and championed the New Opportunity School for Women, a career exploration program for females ages 30-50.

Stephenson has also expanded outreach programs to promote literacy, and brought to fruition the Learning Loft, a literacy training program for children, teenagers, and adults. More recently, he helped organize the Black Mountain Improvement Association, which develops leadership of black youths in Appalachia.

Other accomplishments by Stephenson include having more computers in most departments and establishing a computer center, and his initiating the Science Focus Program for black high school students to spur interest in science among this target group. And the "Town and Gown" relationship between the college and the community "is probably stronger than it ever has been," said Ford. Stephenson has included the town in more college activities, he added.

The president has also been instrumental in promoting the sister city relationship with Takane, Japan, welcoming their delegates, and traveling to the Orient. Stephenson has also helped the college develop property along the I-75 interchange, and promoted public access to Windswept, a home given to the college which can be used as a conference and meeting center by the community.

Unlike most every other college in America, Berea does not charge tuition, relying instead upon the funds in the endowment to continue operations. Berea still reaches out to low-income students from remote areas of Appalachia, and ethnic groups.

Berea College maintains original values through

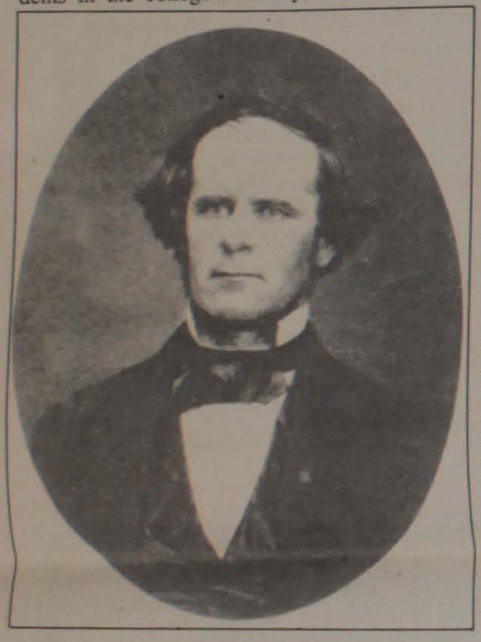
By CHRIS TACKETT

Berea College was created to provide an opportunity for low-income mountain youth to obtain a higher education.

While the 1980s have brought more prosperity to Appalachia, the same principles upon which the school was founded remain intact.

Ed Ford, public relations director of the college, said, "The college firmly believes that there are still enough students out there who need the Berea experience."

Throughout the years, Berea College has provided a quality education for these students, a guiding philosophy for each of the six school presidents in the college's history.



Rev. E. Henry Fairchild

Edward Henry Fairchild was the first president of Berea College. He held the office from 1869-1889 and emphasized that the school was intended for the poor.

"The rich are welcome, of course, and any arrangement as to expense, which will favor the poor, will favor them," he was quoted as saying. "All possible pains will be taken to make expenses low, and to furnish the means of self-support. ... To any young man of the mountains, or the plains, who longs for an education, and can bring two strong hands and a brave heart, we say, earn $25 and come on ... if you earnestly desire an education, let not poverty prevent you."

This democratic ideal and commitment to the region continues to this day, embodied by John Stephenson, the latest president of the college. Ford said of Stephenson, "What he has done already in strengthening Berea's commitment to Appalachia and to black students is tremendous. He has also strengthened the relationship between the college and the community."

Brief analyses of the terms of the seven presidents in Berea College's history are as follows. The source of information for the material was from "Six Berea College Presidents: Tradition and Progress," by Jerome W. Hughes.

When college founder John Fee settled on the Berea ridge in 1854, his primary concerns were to preach the Gospel as a minister and oppose slavery. Soon thereafter, he built a one-room school was built on the ridge. Fee wanted young people "to have their minds so stored with knowledge and disciplined by study, that they should be able to withstand false teachers, and gain for God and humanity that ascendancy which truth and righteousness demanded."

In 1858, Fee and Rev. John A.R. Rogers made plans to enlarge the school into a college. Rogers was a graduate of Oberlin College and Oberlin Seminary and was well-trained as a minister and an educator.

After being forced out of the community for his abolitionist views, Fee returned in 1864 to collaborate with Rogers on a college. Two years later, Berea College was incorporated. It became what the founders wanted, a place where students of all races and backgrounds could receive a quality education, work, and learn about God. The intentions of the founders remain essentially intact.

The bylaws read: "This college shall be under an influence strictly Christian, and as such opposed to sectarianism, slaveholding, caste, and every other wrong institution or practice."

Edward Henry Fairchild was both a minister of the gospel and an educator. Due to the circumstances of the times, he also served as a mediator between blacks and whites at the college and in the community.

Fairchild said, "If it were desirable that negroes should be slaves and serfs, it would then be important that they should be trained from childhood to regard themselves as an inferior race, and that our white children should be taught to regard them as fit only for servitude and servile positions. But we assume that negroes have, and ought to have, the same civil and political rights as white men, and the sooner and more thoroughly both classes adapt themselves to this idea, the better for all."

Fairchild also promoted the cause and the rights to an education of poor and mountain residents. To Fairchild, Berea was not a college "of ordinary character."

He continued in his service to the college until his death on Oct. 2, 1889.

"He really set the tone for the spirit of the college," said Ford of Fairchild.

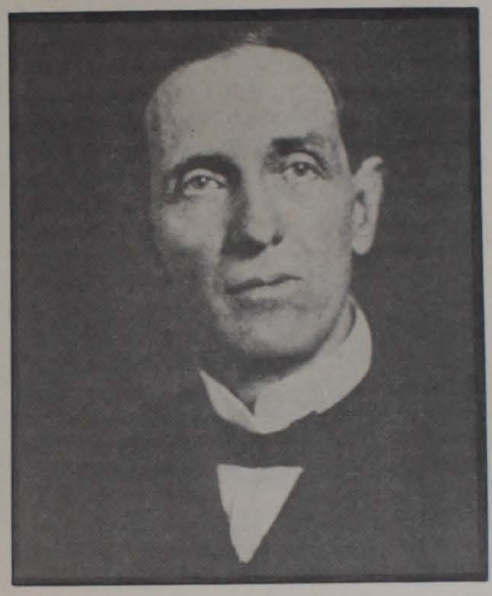
Rev. William Boyd Stewart

Known as a Baptist minister, scholar and teacher, William Boyd Stewart was first a member of the college's Board of Trustees before becoming the second president in 1890.

Serving in this capacity for only two years, Stewart was nonetheless committed to interracial and Christian education.

He said, "If the true function of education is to prepare for right living, it follows that the training which does not draw its inspiration from the Christian Scriptures ... misses the very meaning of existence, and the making of noble men and women. So that I insist not simply on education, but on Christian education."

Ford said of Stewart, "His main contribution in the brief time he was here was to give strength to the Christian atmosphere at Berea College."



Dr. William Goodell Frost

Unanimously elected the third Berea president on June 27, 1892, William Goodell Frost was well-known as a scholar, reformer, orator, evangelist, politician, enthusiast, and aggressive leader. He had distinguished himself by earning A.B., A.M., B.D., and Ph.D. degrees, had done postgraduate work at Harvard and Andover; was an ordained minister, and had studied the educational systems of England and Germany while abroad.

One of Frost's first acts as president was to visit and explore the conditions in Appalachia. One of his primary concerns was in promoting equality among the races.

Consequently, he was a leading opponent of the Day's bill, a measure passed by the Kentucky Legislature in 1904 which effectively segregated Berea and prevented blacks from continuing their education at Berea College. Frost helped college officials set aside money to help black students attend segregated schools or attend Lincoln Institute in Louisville.

Frost focused much of his attention on fundraising and travelled over half of every year. During his tenure the college endowment had grown from $100,000 to $1,000,000.

He retired in 1920 due to health problems.

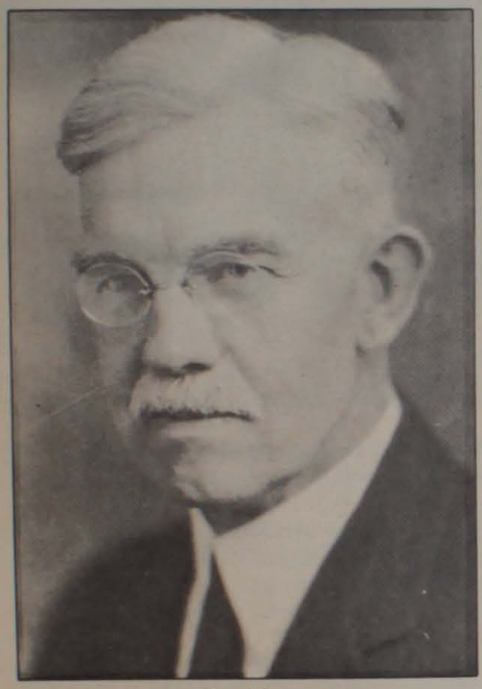
Throughout the 1920-1939 tenure of the next president, William J. Hutchins, the Day Law was in effect. Although the law forbade coeducation of blacks and whites, Hutchins helped to promote interracial understanding by annually bringing to the campus black speakers, poets, artists, musicians and singers.

Hutchins also promoted the college labor program and brought dignity, discipline, motivation and efficiency to the system. He reorganized the college where needed.

Hutchins cut the budget where possible, and at the same time raised teachers' salaries and continued with the college's worthwhile programs. His efforts resulted in an endowment of $10 million, a substantial increase over the 1920 figure.

seven presidents in over 130 years

Ford said of Hutchins, "He really gave Berea a strong academic program and built the college's regional and national reputation as a quality institution."



William James Hutchins

Francis S. Hutchins, the son of his predecessor, received the invitation to become Berea's fifth president while working as a teacher and educational administrator in China in the 1930s. A British gunboat delivered three invitations before Hutchins accepted the post.

Dr. Francis S. Hutchins

Throughout his term from 1939-1967, Hutchins brought many innovations to the campus. He established a B.S. degree in nursing, new degree programs in industrial arts and business administration. During his tenure, new buildings were added to the campus, including two dormitories, a nursing building, and a new library. The "Hutchins Library" was named in his honor.

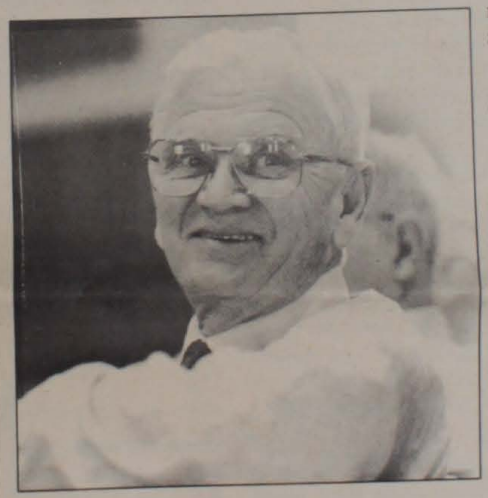
Ford said of Hutchins, "He was so insistent on top quality in everything Berea did. In other words, if Berea was doing it, it had to be the best."

Hutchins also emphasized the essential contributions of the faculty, and wanted his staff to be qualified "not only as teachers but as people, as human beings, as individuals."

A strong advocate of the labor program, Hutchins said, "What's important is that the work is essential. If it's 'make' work, then it's not good enough. If it's something that meets a necessity, then I think it is good." He believed the work program was educational and provided experience which would be beneficial later in a vocation.

Hutchins wanted Berea to have "a character all of its own, a character identifiable because of its fineness, because of its unusual devotion to the needs of human beings."

He spent much time securing funds from foundations as well as to solicit individual donors in financial campaigns. He increased Berea's ten million dollar endowment of 1939 to well over fifty million. And the college enrollment grew from 800 in 1939 to almost 1,500.



Dr. Willis D. Weatherford

Hutchins said, "My greatest satisfaction is that the college has persevered in its purpose of providing an educational opportunity of the highest quality on a no-tuition basis for able mountain youths with financial problems. It would have been so easy to change our policies, but the fiscal policy is practically unchanged. The fact that we have stuck to our basic program of service to these young people is what pleases me."

Willis Duke Weatherford, unanimously elected to be the sixth president at Berea College, was a Phi Beta Kappa scholar with a strong interest in service to others. He had an A.B. degree from Vanderbilt, a B.D. from Yale Divinity School, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard. His academic training had a strong foundation in liberal arts with specialization in both religion and economics. His experience as a college professor brought him an understanding of the problems of both teacher and student.

Ford was well acquainted with Weatherford, "he was a remarkable president. He really established the Great Commitments of Berea as a formal policy statement." This official approval strengthened the college's sense of mission and purpose and gave unity to the efforts of the college community. He broadened the base of decision-making to include students, maintained the staff's academic excellence by granting leave of absence with pay, and persistently strived to promote Berea's commitment to interracial education.

Weatherford said, "We must contrive to offer an interracial setting for our education. In part we do this because our Negro students need a good college to go to. In part this is necessary because those of us who are white need the companionship of our Negro brothers to understand the frustrations and the possibilities of our culture. Either group is but a fragment of God's children, each group needs the other in order to understand the tensions and problems of modern society."

In Weatherford's first few years as president, black enrollment increased from 5-13 percent, interdisciplinary courses dealt with racial problems and black culture, a Black Student Union was formed, and a black campus minister was appointed.

Weatherford said Berea's Christian emphasis had to be constant. The college should "help students develop their own philosophy of life rather than impose any set views upon them. ... A college is not a church and it is not the function of the classroom to evangelize, but it is our business to help young people develop intellectual depth of religious thought along with their growth in other areas.

Ford said that Weatherford also organized an Appalachian Center and Campus Christian Center. The president rebuilt the curriculum to provide for liberal learning with a civic purpose.

Weatherford strengthened the college's long-range planning, which led to $15 million in renovation and new construction during his administration, and more than $42 million being added to the endowment.

"The real measure of a successful funding effort is not so much in dollars as in the program which the dollars make possible. ... Money is important to a college only to the extent that it buys goods and services which enable us to educate young people."

Weatherford also furthered the cooperation between the college and the town of Berea.

Dr. John B. Stephenson

Assuming the presidency in 1984, John Stephenson has continued the college's commitment to Berea and the entire region.

"What he has done already in strengthening Berea's commitment to Appalachia and to black students is tremendous," said Ford. "He has also strengthened the relationship between the college and the community."

So far during Stephenson's term, he has estab-

See presidents, page 10

Berea residents observed Civil War

By CHRIS TACKETT

The battles of the Civil War came no closer to Berea than Richmond, but several well-known local residents were able to observe the preparations for and stages of the Battle of Richmond.

History may have partially obscured the observations of John G. Fee, his wife, and other persons associated with Berea College. Yet Dean Warren Lambert, a Berea College professor and historian, can recreate the scenario of how local abolitionists such as the Fees reacted to the Confederate Army encamped in the Berea area.

Berea was a tiny settlement west of the Old State Road, which was the main road through the county from Richmond. The Old State Road followed near Terrill (then Rodgersville) to Kingston and over Big Hill along what is now Highway 421. The road extended to Lexington and the Cumberland Gap, and was the site of troop movements and skirmishes during the Civil War.

The closest fighting to Berea occurred when a federal calvary unit raided a Confederate camp the night before the Battle of Richmond. The action took place at Bobtown, four miles from this community, said Lambert.

As fate would have it, on about Aug. 28 and 29, 1862, the dates of the Battle of Richmond, Berea College officials and their families were returning from exile to the north. Several years before, pro-slavery forces had run Fee and his associates out of town.

Lambert said that "leading citizens" had closed the school. They either supported slavery or feared that the abolitionists would "frighten the southern states into secession," he added.

Fee intended to return and reestablish his school, but had been delayed because he needed to attend to the publication of a pamphlet he had written. Mrs. Fee, meanwhile, in advance of her husband, was returning to Berea but was stopped by the Union Army south of Richmond. The soldiers were unsure of her motives, said Lambert, but she must have convinced them of her loyalties. She eventually arrived in Berea, and found Confederate troops digging in her garden. She cooked a meal for these men, who were apparently the advance calvary and scouts of Edmund Kirby Smith's Confederate Army of Kentucky. Smith's troops would soon represent the main southern force in the Battle of Richmond.

In one account, Mrs. Fee described riding horseback to view a Confederate camp, the nearest of which was at Bobtown. At the camp, Mrs. Fee talked with a young Confederate officer. She bravely told him of her Union sympathies and of her belief that the South "was fighting for a lost cause," said Lambert. She also turned out to be the first woman abolitionist he had ever met. The officer wore a United States Army belt buckle upside-down, to represent "the Southern Union," added Lambert.

In one of his writings, John A.R. Rogers, an early Fee associate and a founder of Berea College, refers to Confederate troops riding along Chestnut Street and stopping to admire Mrs. Fee's roses. Yet Lambert said, "I find no reference in the Confederate field reports as to which units these troops would have belonged to. And it is not even exactly clear that the incident was at the time of the Battle of Richmond or during the confederate retreat in Perryville in October, 1862."

Lambert described as "pure coincidence" the fact that Rogers came upon the Union Army while returning to Berea from the north. Later, Rogers was repairing his roof on his home in Berea when he heard the sound of a cannon and musket fire in the direction of Kingston. "This, according to the events of the battle, would have been at about 3 p.m., Aug. 29," said Lambert.

Fee was unable to proceed to Berea because he was caught behind three climactic stages of fighting. The front line started at a point across the road from the Mt. Zion Church. The retreating Union Army then established a defensive position at Rogersville. By then the battle was turning into a "disorderly rout," said Lambert. By mid-afternoon, a "last, desperate" Union defense was overrun on a line along the southern edge of Richmond. The line ran from the present cemetery west to what was then Fourth Street, now known as Lancaster Avenue.

The casualties suffered by the Union Army in the Battle of Richmond were horrendous. There were 206 Union soldiers killed in action, 844 wounded, with 4,303 missing, a total of 5,353 lost out of no more than 6,500 present for duty. A considerable number of the wounded actually died and the missing were taken prisoner, said Lambert.

"In total losses, this is the highest percentage that any Union Army suffered in any of the 55 engagements which are usually listed as the important battles of the Civil War," he said. Official records show that 98 Confederate soldiers were killed in action, with 492 wounded, and 10 missing, a total of 600 out of 6,850 present for duty.

There are at least two interesting historical footnotes to the battle. One native Madison County resident with the last name Rogers had a son killed on the very farm he owned. In addition, Colonel Reuben Munday, a Union calvary commander from Madison County, had commanded a citizen's committee of Richmond which had closed Berea College and expelled Fee and his associates.

Dean Warren Lambert, Berea College professor and historian, with Civil War items found on his great-grandfather's farm.

Lambert said Berea was overwhelmingly union and abolitionist, while Richmond was "bitterly divided" over slavery. The border between slave and non-slave territory, with a few exceptions, followed the edge of the mountains, he added.

See Civil War, page 16

gallery and workshop drew mixed reviews. Likewise, the Kentucky Guild began to flounder after a few years. All shops were closed except those in Louisville: the Kentucky Guild was floundering, with no outlets for craftspeoples' goods.

Consequently, Osolnik and others, concerned about providing income for artists and craftspeople by marketing their works, started the Kentucky Guild Fair in Berea. Richard Bellando of Churchill Weavers was hired as director.

The first annual fair in an outdoor setting in Berea took place at Indian Fort Theater in May of 1967. In October of 1975 the Fall Fair was added. The Kentucky Guild's two annual Fairs each involve approximately 100 artists and craftspeople. Each fair features a special Members' Exhibit highlighting outstanding works from guild members. Daily demonstrations include wheel thrown pottery, weaving, wood turning, candle dipping, printmaking, and shingle splitting, to name a few.

The fairs revived the interest of the craftspeople. The trend continued through the directorship of Gary Barker, who took over from Bellando and was in charge of student industries at Berea College.

"Crafts were always an integral part of the student industries" at Berea College, said Osolnik. Leaders for both the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild and the Kentucky Guild of Artists and craftspeople often come from Berea College, he added.

Both Guild Fairs are juried, in that exhibitors submit work for approval by standards and quality.

"I think the thing that has made both guilds strong is that quality is a main concern of both organizations," said Osolnik. "By the Guild having high standards, people who came to buy knew they were purchasing items with aesthetic appeal, durability and good design."

Working with Lilah Bellando and Barker, Osolnik helped organize the Berea Crafts Festival, which created a July fair. This juried fair was open by invitation to craftspeople around the nation.

The Festival's fair sparks new ideas in Berea from visiting craftspeople and gives local artists an opportunity to review different exhibits.

The fairs bring visitors to Berea, provide a market for craftspeople to sell their wares, and bring prestige to the community, said Osolnik. These factors are reasons why there are so many crafts shops and antique stores in Berea, he added.

Berea provides the right atmosphere and climate for creativity, said Osolnik. The mediums are such that craftspeople have a great deal of freedom to produce objects which are aesthetically appealing and of high quality, he added.

"What makes crafts appealing is that they reflect the individual talent and skill in design by their creator," he said. "It's like a painting — you try to make each craft item to be an object in itself, and not a mass-produced object."

Museums recognize crafts as fine art, said Osolnik, and the distinctions between fine arts and crafts are becoming narrower. The community is receptive to young craftspeople, an attitude which promotes a continuing influx of talent, he added.

Berea historically re-elects mayors

In Berea's 100 years of history, there have been only three mayors, beginning with John Gay in 1910. He served for 48 years, setting a trend for longstanding service which continues to this day.

C.C. Hensley, the second mayor, served 24 years, from 1957-1981. Clifford Kerby became mayor pro tem in 1980 when Hensley became ill. Kerby was made permanent mayor in 1981, and is still in office.

Josiah Burdett was chair of the first village trustees in Berea in 1890. The Clerk Pro Tem was P.D. Dodge, with E.J. Fish secretary, A.J. Hanson treasurer, and Henry J. Wood the town marshall.

The trustees were P.B. Johnson, A.W. Titus, and Richard Corneilison.

Besides Kerby, the current Administration consists of Police Chief Ray Brandenburg; Fire Chief Jerry Simpson; City Administrator Tom Preston, City Attorney J.T. Gilbert; Codes Enforcement Officer Dale VanWinkle; Sanitation Coordinator Chuck Hallam; Public Works Director Bill Hale; City Clerk Patricia Abrams; Parks and Recreation Director David Vaughn; and councilmembers Vi Farmer, Tom McCay, J. Carroll McGill, Howard Baker, Auldon Parker, George Bryant, Bill Hamilton, and Randy Stone.

College preserves best of yesterday for tomorrow

By MIKE FRENCH

What if one could step into an old black and white movie and enter a world surrounded in baroque trim?

What if you could become part of that pure, simple scene that appears on the silver screen?

Such a desire may be part of the reason many residents remain so fond of Berea and the Berea College.

John G. Fee founded the college in 1855 because he felt that the people in Appalachia deserved the same quality education as those in large cities.

Fee, an abolitionist, decided to build such a college in Madison County. Berea College has continued to grow in size and enrollment since it became a four-year institution in 1869.

However, the basic ideas set forth by Fee have not changed.

The student work program is still in force at this 1,500 student college. Each student is required to work 10 to 20 hours per week at a job at the college to help pay for expenses, since there is no tuition. This program teaches the students work values in the real workplace. As many students have commented, working at a real job is very different in many ways from reading about the work experience.

Though there have been some changes in cosmetics and equipment just to keep up with the times, one of the values that the college staff and officials have held true is the value of cleanliness. There simply are no candy wrappers or tin cans found on the ground as one drives through Berea on Chestnut Street.

The College has maintained the beauty and freshness that concrete sidewalks and paved roads often destroy. As a newcomer idles down Chestnut Street, which glides through the center of the college without intrusion, he is taken back to the cleaner, simpler days of John Fee.

A canopy of blossoming trees drapes the sides of Chestnut Street. Squirrels will trot up to a pedestrian and eat from his hands. Thick green grass is kept trimmed and free of debris and fresh mountian air is constantly circulating from the surrounding mountains.

The serenity that overcomes the visitor to the college, sometimes can make one feel that there must be something wrong. The fast-paced feeling that nothing can be this calm without having a major drawback, is soon dissipated when one looks deeper into the college and its' background.

See College, page 16

Mural recalls college commencements

The vivid colors and details of the mural are the first things to attract attention.

Then, a story visually begins to unfold.

A figure that is apparently a minister is in the foreground. At the far right, a man sings and plays a dulcimer. Nearby, a young boy enjoys some peppermint stick candy, a dog sniffs at a covered picnic basket, two men engage in some horsetrading, refreshments are purchased at a rectangular stand and people of all sizes, ages and descriptions are active throughout the painting.

A county fair? That's close, but its's more than that.

The mural in the Berea Post Office depicts a colorful era in the history of the community—Berea College commencement. The contribution of artist Frank Long details commencement at the College the way it was in the late 1800s and after the turn of the century.

Commencement at that time was much more than an educational function. For thousands of people in and around the Berea community, it was a major social and cultural event.

Located on the upper east wall of the post office, the mural is approzimately 6x12-feet in size and was completed in 1938. It's one of approximately 110 murals that appear in U.S. post offices around the United States.

A variety of horses, wagons and buggies are included in the drawing, which also includes a rambling frame structure known as the Tabernacle.

The Tab, as it was called on campus, was then the place where graduation exercises took place in addition to recitations, dialogs, orations and choral performances. Visiting speakers—ranging from politicians and businessmen to philanthropists and ministers—spoke there during a full day of activities.

In addition to picnics, visiting, trading and the purchase of refreshments and various other goods, those attending viewed exhibitions of a variety of crafts. The College initiated a Homespun Fair at commencement in 1896 that provided cash prizes for such things as home-dyed, homespun, hand-woven coverlets, hickory-split baskets, splint-bottom chairs and handmade ax handles. For the next 20 years, the fair thrived at commencement time and was a source of great encouragement for mountain weavers and whittlers.

For Kentuckians and Berea people, several of the figures in the mural have special meaning. The dulcimer performer was modeled after folk musician John Jacob Niles. And a man wearing a blue shirt stationed behind the refreshment counter was based upon Pruitte Smith, a long-time College employee.

The locale of the mural scene is on or about the present College quadrangle. The Tabernacle, shown in the upper right in the painting, forms a northern border for the artwork and was located near the College's current theater facility, the Jelkyl Drama Building. Lincoln Hall, not shown, but which is the southern barrier of the quadrangle, was used during the period of the painting to house the Homespun Fair exhibitions.

Top, students boarding the train at the L&N Depot, Berea; bottom, College Square in the early 1900s.

COLLEGE, From page 15

This year, for example, Berea college was ranked second in its class academically and has one of the nation's highest placement rankings with students who have graduated.

Berea College may well be the exception to the rule that one has to take the bad to get the good. Many students who have graduated from Berea College now fondly look back on their college days and refer to those days as "The Berea College Experience".

Whether you're a resident or a visitor, take time stroll through the campus. Sit down on a stone bench. Close your eyes and breath the cool mountain air. Listen to the wind slowly move the limbs of the 100-year-old trees. Get your own taste of "The Berea College Experience."

And know why the second hundred years in Berea will be as good, or better, than the first.

CIVIL WAR, From page 13

"The larger slaveholding farms were generally around Richmond and to the north of it, particularly in the area around College Hill and Old Cane Springs," said Lambert.

Madison County consisted primarily of pro-slavery, Confederate sympathizers; slaveholders still loyal to the Union; and many persons in support of the Union regardless of whether or not they owned slaves. Oftentimes, the various factions would "terrorize" one another, said Lambert.

"Like every border area in the Civil War, there were examples of high-handed behavior on the part of both the Southern sympathizers and the Union Homeguards (local militia)," he added.

Fee eventually arrived home, and opened the Berea grade school in September 1864.

Berea historically a hub for arts and crafts

By CHRIS TACKETT

Berea was a hub of activity for craftspeople long before Kentucky's first statewide arts organization was founded here in 1960.

Crafts were a part of student industries from the time Berea College was founded in the early 1800's, Rude Osolnik said.

Osolnik was a founder and one of the first directors, as well as treasurer and acting president, of the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen.

Lester Pross, also of Berea and a local college professor, was the Guild's first president. He wrote to another Guild member on Dec. 2, 1960, "I think personally that such an organization which would in its very inception unite the artist and the craftsman, has much to recommend it, and it might be a trail blazer."

As the "Arts and Crafts Capital of Kentucky," Berea has been a forerunner in the industry, and has attracted many fine young craftspersons to locate here throughout the years. One of the objectives of the student industry and labor interests at Berea College has always been to bring arts and crafts activities to this community, said Osolnik. "The college has always been interested in quality, and the community has become famous for quality crafts."

Rude Osolnik

Osolnik conducts workshops and symposiums around the world as a nationally-known woodturner. He is considered an expert on the history of arts and crafts in Berea, with both academic and practical experience in the field. He and his wife, Daphne, now deceased, started the Benchmark Gallery on Jane Street, behind Cliff Hagan's Restaurant. The gallery was one of the first crafts shops outside those at the college.

Osolnik came to Berea in 1937, and taught industrial arts at the Foundation School, the equivalent of the first 10 grades. In about 1949, he joined Berea College as a member of the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild. Osolnik would submit his work to a jury of his peers with the Southern Guild.

In the 1960s, the state government became interested in uniting artists in a crafts program. Governor Bert Combs provided the initial funding and began a crafts division of the Department of Commerce. The division formed the Kentucky Guild, with Paul Hadley of Churchill Weavers designated as the first director. The Kentucky Guild, headquartered in Frankfort, created numerous jobs, forming crafts shops around the state.

From headquarters in Berea, the Kentucky Guild coordinated a program of education, promotion, and marketing for its growing membership. Works by individual Guild members could be found in many major museums as well as public and private collections across the country.

The use of two baggage cars from the L & N Railroad as a mobile art

See Arts, page 14

Top, Boone Tavern, 1991; middle, an early Berea business; bottom, the last hunters' cabin near Berea.

BEREA

1890 1990

CENTENNIAL

College Square, Berea Kentucky, 1991